

the Agriculture Under Secretary, who in response to my questioning said that the President will sign this bill into law.

On top of its stunning wild character, the 106,577-acre Wild Sky Wilderness is particularly noteworthy because it embraces lower elevation lands than most of the existing Federal wilderness areas in our State. As a result, the new wilderness will afford statutory protection to headwaters streams and watersheds vital to the survival and restoration of healthy runs of salmon and steelhead in the Skykomish River, for which the area is named.

Passage of this legislation contributes to the important goal of protecting a greater diversity of biological communities in our National Wilderness Preservation System—including deep, forested valleys as well as towering, ice-clad mountain peaks. This lower elevation wilderness land will provide greater opportunities for year-round recreational adventures for Washington State residents.

During the congressional consideration of this wilderness proposal, our committee has dealt with a question that all too easily can mislead those who are not familiar with the 1964 Wilderness Act and of the consistent approach Congress has followed over four decades now in applying the protection of that historic conservation law to additional portions of our Federal lands.

As Congress acts on wilderness proposals such as this Wild Sky Wilderness legislation, it is important that we take care to follow the legislative history of the Wilderness Act of 1964, which was a bipartisan product of our committee, and the precedents consistently laid down over the subsequent more than four decades as Congress has enacted more than 130 laws under both Democratic and Republican leadership that have designated new wilderness areas across our country.

It is clear that the Wilderness Act reserves to Congress alone the decision as to what Federal lands are “suitable” for designation as wilderness. Subsection 2(a) of the Wilderness Act specifies that “. . . no Federal lands shall be designated as ‘wilderness areas’ except as provided for in this Act or by a subsequent Act.” Subsection 3(c) further specifies that the President may make recommendations, but that “A recommendation of the President for designation as wilderness shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of Congress.”

Despite this full history of Congressional action, some tried to question the inclusion of certain lands in the Wild Sky Wilderness because these lands showed fading evidence of past logging, old roads, and similar evidence of human use and impact. This objection, sometimes referred to as the “purity theory” of wilderness, is not based on an accurate understanding of the Wilderness Act and the intent of those who enacted it.

The new Wild Sky Wilderness includes some evidence of past human uses and impacts, including evidence of logging, old logging roads and logging railroad grades, and some culverts installed along those roads and railroad grades. In this way, it is no different than many wilderness areas Congress has previously designated as wilderness.

During a debate here on the House floor in 1969, Representative Morris K. Udall, the former chairman of our committee and himself one of the architects of the Wilderness Act, explained this practical approach intended by

the authors of the Wilderness Act to the House:

It would be nice to have our national wilderness system absolutely pure and completely free of any sign of the hand of man. But the fact is that we are getting a late start in this business of preserving America's wilderness. Logging has occurred; wood roads have been opened and later abandoned; cabins have been built which in time have decayed and fallen down; in the interest of public health and safety and to protect the natural resources there may sometimes be lookout towers and patrol cabins. All of these are imperfections within the wilderness. Yet how often is man able to create or to establish anything which is truly perfect? Very, very rarely—if ever. [Congressional Record, September 24, 1969]

Mr. Speaker, these remarks by Rep. Udall perfectly explicate the practical approach that Congress has always followed as we choose lands for protection in our National Wilderness Preservation System. He went on to further explain that:

Congress has declared it is our national policy to preserve America's wilderness resource. Whether some prior existing imperfection—something less than absolutely purity—is to be accepted into the national wilderness system should be determined by whether its inclusion will significantly contribute to the implementation of this national policy of wilderness preservation or whether its omission will significantly obstruct this policy. [CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, September 24, 1969]

In keeping with the practical approach he has so cogently summarized, I want to emphasize that some of the low elevation lands within the Wild Sky Wilderness show evidence of past human use and impacts. We have made a careful judgment that inclusion of these lands is important to serve the overall purpose of wilderness protection. As chairman Udall would have put it, every acre in the proposed Wild Sky Wilderness exhibits “substantially all the value of wilderness.” We should preserve it.

I would also like to take a moment to pay tribute to Ms. Karen Fant, who devoted her life to preserving wilderness and wildlife in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. She spent four decades organizing for conservation, working for groups including the Alaska Coalition, Sierra Club, Olympic Park Associates, Wild Sky Working Group, Washington Wilderness Coalition, and Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition. Her activism spanned many years, crossed state lines, and extended as far as Chongqing, China, where she dedicated herself to developing a strategy to address environmental degradation in Asia as a board member of the Seattle-Chongqing Sister City Association.

Karen was instrumental in passing the 1984 Washington State Wilderness Act, which sets aside over one million acres of new wilderness. She also initiated the efforts to preserve Wild Sky. I cannot imagine a better way to honor Karen's conservation legacy than for my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 886, the Wild Sky Wilderness Act of 2007. Passage of this legislation is the perfect tribute to Karen's legacy.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 886.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCERNING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLOODING OF CELILO FALLS

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 217) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the 50th anniversary of the flooding of Celilo Falls.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 217

Whereas Celilo Falls, located near The Dalles, Oregon, was a great fishing and trading location for Indian tribes and has been called the “Wall Street of the West” by historians;

Whereas artifacts suggest tribes as far as Alaska, the Great Plains and the Southwest United States came to trade and fish at Celilo for over 10,000 years;

Whereas the Umatilla, Nez Perce, Yakama and Warm Springs tribes reserved their fishing rights at their usual and accustomed places, including Celilo, when they signed treaties with the United States;

Whereas on March 10, 1957, to provide hydroelectricity and irrigation, The Dalles Dam was constructed;

Whereas the completion of the dam inundated Celilo in six hours, quickly changing the way of life for tribes that fished at Celilo; and

Whereas tribes still live and fish along the river, exercising their treaty rights agreed with the Congress of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recognizes the 50th anniversary of the flooding of Celilo Falls and the change of life it imposed upon tribal peoples.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The purpose of House Resolution 217, introduced by our colleague from Oregon, Mr. DAVID WU, is to express the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the 50th anniversary of the flooding of Celilo Falls. Celilo Falls was a unique natural feature formed as the Columbia River carved a path